SPRING 2003

# Alabama Chess Federation Antics

President's Letter

By Bill Melvin

I first started playing serious tournament chess in the summer of 1982. My first tournament was during summer between my Junior and Senior years of high school. In those days, scholastic chess was still in its infancy and U.S. Chess was centered around adult chess. The most prevalent question was probably "What do we need to do to get back to the membership numbers of the Fischer boom?" It seems that it took U.S. chess players a long time to come to grips with the fact that Bobby wasn't coming back. At least not the same Bobby we thought we knew.

Even way back when, electronic devices that played chess existed. I had a Video Chess game for my Atari 2600 in the late 1970s. They had standalone models by the early 1980s. While "fun" to play against, they weren't a serious challenge to anyone rated 1800 or above. I watched strong players give queen odds or better and consistently come away with wins. In those days, the term "computer move" was derogatory. It implied a move so bad that a computer might make it. Especially moves that ignored or undervalued pawn promotions might be considered "computer moves." We wondered what computers would someday be capable of in chess, but felt pretty comfortable that they would never be able to play as well as the better humans.

Within a few years, computers were playing better than just about everyone. Computers that played than Experts and then Masters were everywhere to be found. This progressed to the point where computers could beat all but the top handful of players in the world. The term "computer move" became synonymous with an excellent move that is very hard for a human to find. We now started to use computers to "spell check" our and show us where we went wrong.

I'm not sure how many of us appreciate what a monumental impact the computer age has had on the world of chess. Want an opponent? You can find a silicon beast (even playing a weakened game to your level!) or willing human via the internet anytime. Want to improve? Find a coach over the internet or go to one of various instructional sites. Looking to research a game/variation? Use a database program to pull up several hundred games in the variation in question. Get statistics on the variation or have the computer analyze a few million sub-variations for you.

Throughout all of this, the humble game of Over The Board chess has stayed nearly the same. Sure, time controls now discourage adjournments, but they were rare birds anyway. Sure, our clocks have become computerized and fancier, but the clock is just a tool we use while playing the game. We are still facing opponents in tournaments the same as we were 20 years ago. One vs. one. No outside assistance. Winner wins and it feels good. Loser loses and it hurts. No do-overs.

While we now have alternatives to Over The Board tournament chess, the game we loved 20+ years ago still has its well-supported place. See your friends, look into the eyes of a strong player, win a trophy or prize money, enjoy a colorful post-mortem, buy a book that you can browse through before buying — all of these options and more are only available to the Over The Board player at a chess tournament.

Is it possible that our great game has survived the computer age? It appears so! Not only that, but there are even MORE opportunities to enjoy the game in the computer age. Yes, the age old game of chess has gotten better and more popular. That's EXACTLY what we would expect of the game we love. It didn't roll over and die. It got BETTER!

**"In the Endgame is where the true power of each piece is demonstrated"**
**Capablanca**

**" The endgame is where you reap the rewards of all your hard work in the opening and middlegame. The win is realized through knowledge and training"**
**IM Turzo**

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Endgame Attitude

By Bill Melvin

Pieces that play the endgame are leftovers from the middlegame? Hardly! These are battle hardened warriors. They've fought hard and are the elite survivors of the middlegame. That pawn on the seventh rank, well, a bishop and a rook have already given themselves up so that it could make it that far. That knight that is holding the pawn back from queening has already moved eleven times and isn't the least bit tired. These warriors have fought much too hard to let up now!

Endgames are a special part of chess. At their best they combine elegance, complexity, and simplicity to create genuine works of art. Countless endgame "studies" have been composed throughout the ages. Some chess players become so engrossed in endgames that they totally give up playing chess to sit around and create these studies. Yet, the average tournament player finds themself dreading this part of the game where their advantage always seems to slip away.

Maxims like "When ahead, trade pieces. When behind, trade pawns." are worth their weight in gold. However, they are often misapplied. Countless games have been drawn by mindlessly trading pieces only to find the pawn up rook ending drawn. Just remember that if your position is so good to force the exchange of so many pieces you probably have another advantage that you aren't exploiting. While the lesson would appear to be one of "always exploit your advantages", it is also one of "know which rook and pawn endings are drawn."

And don't forget the power of the king. He is such a coward in the opening and middlegame. Always anxious to castle and keep pieces nearby for protection. Just when you are ready to give up on the monarch for being a wimp, he emerges from his pawn shelter to either help deliver the final checkmate or to escort a pawn to the queening square. Even the defensive power of a king is amazing. A lone king can stop a pawn from queening, even when supported by a knight, bishop, or rook (unless cut off by a file). I can hear the king bellow to his troops "You guys work on getting that queenside pawn home, I'll handle the kingside by myself."

The real appeal of the endgame for chess players should come from ironclad logic. Chess players have minds or they wouldn't play chess. Opening theory is just that — "theory." All is well and good until a new move/idea comes along. Endgames deal in facts. In rook endings, Lucena's Position is a win and Philidor's Position is a draw. This will never change and isn't even open to debate. The trick is to learn the basic positions and learn how to transpose from complicated positions into the basic ones that are favorable to your side.

Just keep your spirits up for the endgame. Do your homework and you'll soon be turning losses into draws and draws into wins. That sole surviving pawn is counting on you to see it through.

Two Chess Book Reviews
by: Zachary Z. Kinney (rated: 1842*)

"Chess Brilliancy: 250 Historic Games from the Masters," by Iakov Damsby.
Everyman Chess Publishers PLC, London, England, 2002, Price$21.95, 224 pages.

Iakov Damsby's book " Chess Brilliancy" attempts to trace the history of the chess Brilliancy Prize (CBP). Damsby uses the games of the Grand Masters who captured the CBP, as well as a handful of games that did not receive a CBP.
But arguably, in Damsby's view, should have.

The author also examines the development of and the criteria established for determining whether a game is worthy of a CBP, and who should determine this fact. Furthermore, he ponders if art should be used to determine a chess brilliancy.

I found the book interesting and perhaps useful to a person studying chess history. The book presented less benefit to the aspiring chess player who is seeking to improve his/her game in over-the-board "OTB" play.

Iakov Damsby did choose a number of excellent games for his book and the analysis of those games were very good. However, he comes up short in his effort to write a clear and concise introduction. His organization of the material is somewhat odd and hard to follow. In sum, I rate this book to be 1 star out of a possible 5 stars.

"Taming the Sicilian: A repertoire for White Against the Most Popular Black Openings," by Nigel Davies.
Everyman Chess Publishers PLC, London, England, 2002, Price $19.95, 144 pages.

"Taming the Sicilian," is a book about how to beat the Sicilian Defense, if you are playing with the white pieces. Nigel Davies writes an excellent book, in the final analysis, on defeating black when he plays the Sicilian Defense.

This book accurately examines the key variations of the Sicilian Defense that black can play and how to beat them. The book is well organized and from start to finish, Davies stays on the subject.

The only drawback to this book is that it fails to treat the Closed Sicilian and the Richter-Rauser variations. The Closed Sicilian is a might weapon against the lines covered in the book and it deserves treatment. As an advocate of the Sicilian Defense, I can honestly say that the advice Davies provides is correct and sound.

Notwithstanding the one minor draw back to this book, I would strongly recommend it to chess players who play e4 and encounters the Sicilian Defense - 1...c5. The price is about right and the book is easy to read and understand. Overall, I rate this book to be 3 stars out of a possible 5 stars.

*About the reviewer: Zachary Kinney is a Major and JAG Officer, serving active duty in the U. S. Air Force at Maxwell AFB, Montgomery, Alabama. Zack is a veteran chess player, who was once rated over 2100 in OTB play. That USCF Expert rating is equal to a Master rating under the FIDE Rules. Furthermore, he has played in numerous chess tournaments and won several prizes.

Below is a tournament Flyer for the upcoming Tuskegee Chess Open. It is important for all of us to support a new tournament!!!! Lets make this one a success!!!!

1st Annual Tuskegee Chess Open
April 26 & 27, 2003

Tuskegee University
Student Union Ballroom
Tuskegee, AL 36088

QUESTIONS? Contact: Jack Wilson

ON-SITE REGISTRATION: $45.00 Sat., April 26th, 8:00-9:00 AM

PREREGISTRATION: Save $5.00 by mailing $40.00 entry by APRIL 21st
To: Jack Wilson

Include USCF# and section (Open or Reserve) on check memo line

AFFILIATIONS: USCF and ACF (for Alabama Residents) membership is required. Both can be purchased at registration if necessary. OSA

ROUND TIMES: Saturday, 9:30 2:30 7:30
Sunday, 9:00 2:00

TIME CONTROL: 35 moves in 90 minutes, then sudden death in 30 minutes.

TD: Caesar Lawrence, Montgomery Chess Club

DIRECTIONS: Take exit #32 off I-85; turn right (if coming from Montgomery), turn left onto Franklin Road, turn left onto Old Montgomery Road, turn left into main entrance of Tuskegee University (Booker T. Washington Blvd), turn right onto Benjamin F. Payton Drive, take second right (big parking lot behind Student Union).

PRIZES

| OPEN (to all) | | (Based upon 40 players) | RESERVE (under 1600) | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1st | $300 | | 1st | $230 |
| 2nd | $150 | | 2nd | $120 |
| Top Expert | $100 | | Top D | $100 |
| 2nd Expert | $50 | | 2nd D | $50 |
| Top A | $100 | | Top E | $100 |
| 2nd A | $50 | | Top < 1000/unr | $100 |
| Top < 1800 | $100 | | | |
| 2nd < 1800 | $50 | | | |

HOTEL INFO: TU Kellogg Conference Center (a four-minute walk to playing site): $65 per night, reserve by April 18th, (334) 727-3000(mention chess club). Best Western (a twenty-minute drive): $55 per night, reserve by April 24th, (334) 821-7001.

Richard Bellezza Memorial 01/18/03-01/19/03

On Janurary 18, 2003 21 players gathered to honor the late Richard Bellezza. It was organized as a class tournament, in part to recognize the class and character of our friend and chess partner.

The tournament was a disappointment in terms of numbers. Spirited fighting chess was there in great supply however. A number of good games are in this issue.

Andy Reeder won what turned into the open section 3-1. His only defeat came at the hands of the red hot Jeffrey Wien. Jeffrey had to withdraw because of a last minute emergency work call in. Unfortunate, because at two wins and one draw he was leading going into round 4. Despite not being able to finish, he still gained 49 points in this tournament.

In what turned into the lower section, Mississippi player Douglas Stewart earned his Promotion to the class A title by going undefeated. Local players Robert Bashinsky and Yan Zhu took second - third. The largest rating point gain of the day was Steve Dibble, who gained 111 points.

I enjoyed directing and organizing this tournament. I am pleased to see clubs and directors now taking the baton and running their leg in this great race. I encourage each and every tournament director to organize and direct at least one tournament this year.

Open Section

| # | Name | St | Pre | Post | Rd1 | Rd2 | Rd3 | Rd4 | T |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Reeder, Andy | Al | 2101 | 2104 | W3 | W2 | L4 | W5 | 3.0 |
| 2 | Varagona,Scott | Al | 1998 | 1999 | W9 | L1 | D3 | W6 | 2.5 |
| 3 | Goodman, Keith | Al | 1874 | 1892 | L1 | W9 | D2 | W8 | 2.5 |
| 4 | Wien, Jeffrey | Al | 1865 | 1914 | W7 | D5 | W1 | U | 2.5 |
| 5 | Aktunc, Ozgur | Al | 1939 | 1942 | D6 | D4 | W7 | L1 | 2.0 |
| 6 | Lawrence, Caesar | Al | 1826 | 1828 | D5 | L7 | W9 | L2 | 1.5 |
| 7 | Hater, David | Al | 2028 | 2010 | L4 | W6 | L5 | U | 1.0 |
| 8 | Petty, Kirk | Al | 1904 | 1900 | U | U | U | L3 | 0.0 |
| 9. | Kinney, Zach | Al | 1821 | 1800 | L2 | L3 | L6 | U | 0.0 |

Second section

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Stewart,Douglas | MS | 1797 | 1806 | W7 | W9 | WF | W5 | 3.0 |
| 2 | Bashinsky, Robert | Al | 1543 | 1545 | W11 | W8 | L3 | W6 | 3.0 |
| 3 | Zhu, Yan | Al | 1499 | 1508 | L8 | W11 | W2 | W9 | 3.0 |
| 4 | Dibble, Steve | Al | 1272 | 1383 | L5 | W10 | D9 | W12 | 2.5 |
| 5 | Fort,Scott | Al | 1547 | 1562 | W4 | W6 | LF | L1 | 2.0 |
| 6. | Wilbanks, Chad | Al | 1423 | 1440 | W10 | L5 | W7 | L2 | 2.0 |
| 7 | Parden, William | Al | 1224 | 1243 | L1 | W12 | L6 | W8 | 2.0 |
| 8 | Rozsa, Andrew | Al | 1185 | 1232 | W3 | L2 | W11 | L7 | 2.0 |
| 9 | OConnor, John | AL | 1444 | 1424 | W12 | L1 | D4 | L3 | 1.5 |
| 10 | Schuermann, james | Al | 1772 | 1727 | L6 | L4 | U | U | 0.0 |
| 11 | Horton, Monte | Al | 1193 | 1160 | L2 | L3 | L8 | U | 0.0 |
| 12 | Gilliland, Brando | Al | 749 | 749 | L9 | L7 | U | L4 | 0.0 |

□ **Lawrence**
■ **Aktunc**

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.g3 Nf6 4.d3 Bc5 5.h3 d6 6.Bg2 h6 7.c3 a5 8.0-0 0-0 9.Be3 Bxe3 10.fxe3 Ne7 11.Nbd2 c6 12.d4 Ng6 13.Qc2 Qc7 14.Rad1 b6 15.g4 Nh7 16.Rf2 Be6 17.Rdf1 Qe7 18.c4 Bd7 19.d5 c5 20.a4 Ra7 21.b3 Qd8 22.Re1 Nh4 23.Nxh4 Qxh4 24.Nf3 Qd8 25.Rff1 Ng5 26.Nh2 Nh7 27.Qf2 Bc8 28.Kh1 f6 29.Rg1 g6 30.Nf1 Rg7 31.Ng3 Kf7 32.Ref1 Ke7 33.Ne2 Rff7 34.Nc3 Bd7 35.Qg3 Qh8 36.h4 Qc8 37.Bh3 Nf8 38.Kh2 Nh7 39.Rg2 Rf8 40.Rgf2 Rgf7 41.Ne2 Ke8 42.Nc1 Qd8 43.Nd3 Qe7 44.Rf3 Kd8 45.Kg2 Kc7 46.Qf2 Bc8 47.Kg3 Bd7 48.Nc1 Rg7 49.Kh2 Bc8 50.Nd3 Bd7 51.Kg3
**½-½**

□ **Lawrence**
■ **Varagona**

1.e4 c6 2.d3 d5 3.Nd2 e5 4.Ngf3 Bd6 5.g3 Nf6 6.Bg2 0-0 7.0-0 Bg4 8.Qe1 Nbd7 9.h3 Bxf3 10.Bxf3 d4 11.Bg2 b5 12.f4 c5 13.fxe5 Nxe5 14.Nf3 Nfd7 15.Bd2 Nxf3+ 16.Rxf3 Ne5 17.Rf5 Rc8 18.Qe2 c4 19.Bf4 f6 20.Rh5 g6 21.Bxe5 gxh5 22.Bxd6 Qxd6 23.Qxh5 cxd3 24.cxd3 Qxg3 25.Qxb5 Kh8 26.Qf5 Rc2 27.Qf3 Rg8
**0-1**

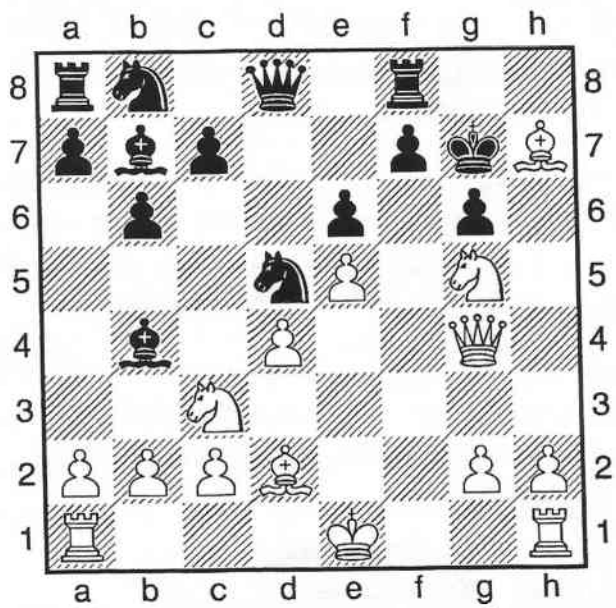
□ **Bashinsky**
■ **Horton**

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.c4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Nc6 6.a3 dxc4 7.d5 Ne5 8.Bf4 Nd3+ 9.Bxd3 cxd3 10.Qxd3 g6 11.Nf3 Bg7 12.0-0 0-0 13.Rac1 Qb6 14.Qd2 Qa5 15.Rfe1 Rd8 16.Rxe7 Nxd5 17.Nxd5 Qxd2 18.Nxd2 Rxd5 19.Re8+ Bf8 20.Bh6
**1-0**

□ **Reeder**
■ **Goodman**

**1.d4 Nf6 2.Bg5 Ne4 3.Bf4 d5 4.f3 Nf6 5.e4 dxe4 6.Nc3 e6 7.fxe4 Bb4 8.Bd3 0-0 9.Nf3 b6 10.e5 Nd5 11.Bxh7+ Kh8 12.Bd2 Bb7 13.Ng5 g6 14.Qg4 Kg7** diagr **15.Bxg6 Be7 16.Bxf7 Bxg5 17.Bxg5**
**1-0**

□ **Reeder**
■ **Goodman**



□ OConnor
■ Stewart

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bc4 g6 5.d4 cxd4 6.Nxd4 Bg7 7.0-0 0-0 8.h3 Nc6 9.Nf3 a6 10.a3 b5 11.Bb3 Bb7 12.Re1 Na5 13.Ba2 Nd7 14.Bd2 Nc4 15.Rb1 Nxd2 16.Qxd2 Rc8 17.Nd5 Nb6 18.Nxb6 Qxb6 19.c3 Bc6 20.Qg5 Qb7 21.Qg4 Bd7 22.Qg5 Bc6 23.Qg4 Bd7 24.Qh4 Bf6 25.Ng5 Bxg5 26.Qxg5 Be6 27.Bxe6 fxe6 28.h4 Rc5 29.Qg4 Rf6 30.Re3 h5 31.Qh3 e5 32.Rbe1 Qc8 33.Qxc8+ Rxc8 34.b4 Rc4 35.Rd1 Rf4 36.Rg3 Kf7 37.Rgd3 Rfxe4 38.g3 Re2 39.Ra1 Rc2
**0-1**

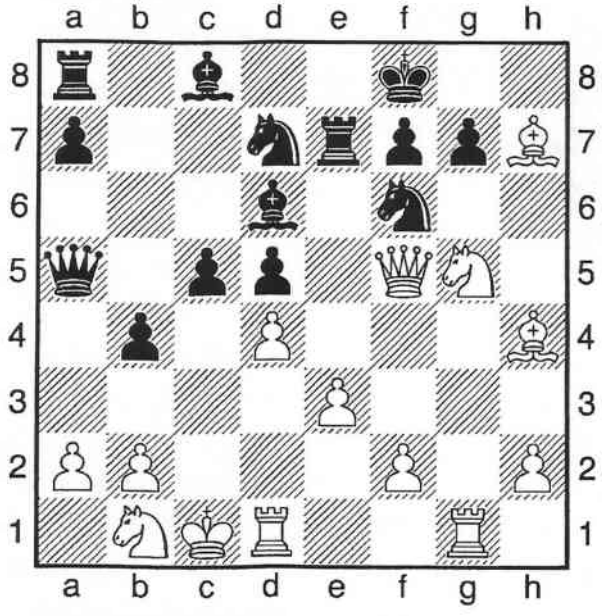
□ Fort
■ Wilbanks

**1.e4 c5 2.Bc4 Nc6 3.d3 e6 4.Nf3 d5 5.exd5 exd5 6.Qe2+ Be7 7.Bb5 Nf6 8.Bxc6+ bxc6 9.Bg5 0-0 10.Nbd2 Re8 11.0-0 h6 12.Bh4 Bd6** Blacks discovery backfires White removes a key defender of blacks back rank **13.Bxf6 gxf6 14.Qd1 Kh7 15.Nh4 Be5 16.Qh5 Bxb2 17.Rab1 Rg8 18.Nf5 Bxf5 19.Qxf5+ Rg6 20.Rxb2 Qc7 21.Nf3 Rag8 22.Nh4 Kh8 23.Nxg6+ Rxg6 24.Rfb1 Kg7 25.Rb7 Qa5 26.Qe6**
**1-0**

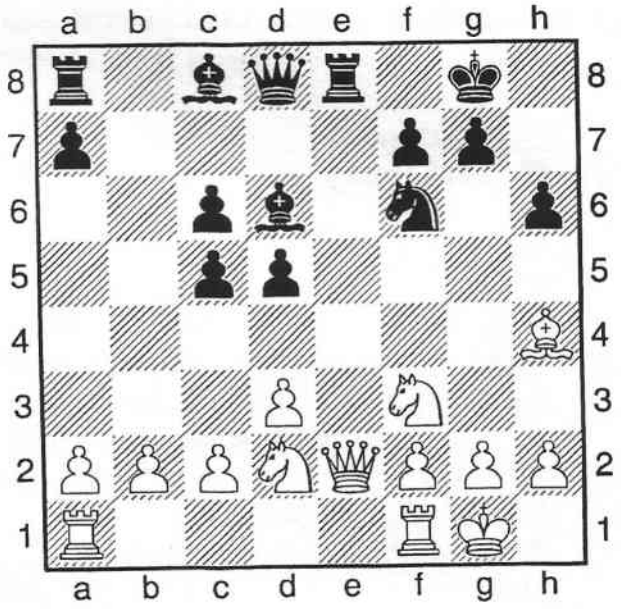
□ Varagona
■ Reeder

**1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 Nbd7 5.cxd5 exd5 6.e3 c6 7.Nf3 Bd6 8.Bd3 0-0 9.Qc2 h6 10.Bh4 Re8 11.0-0-0 b5 12.g4 Qa5 13.g5 hxg5 14.Nxg5 b4 15.Nb1 c5 16.Bh7+ Kf8 17.Rhg1 Re7 18.Qf5** diagram **cxd4 19.Rxd4 Ne5 20.Ne6+ Bxe6 21.Qxf6 Rc7+** one of those pesky in between moves again **22.Kd1 gxf6 23.Bxf6 Ng6**
**0-1**

□ Varagona
■ Reeder

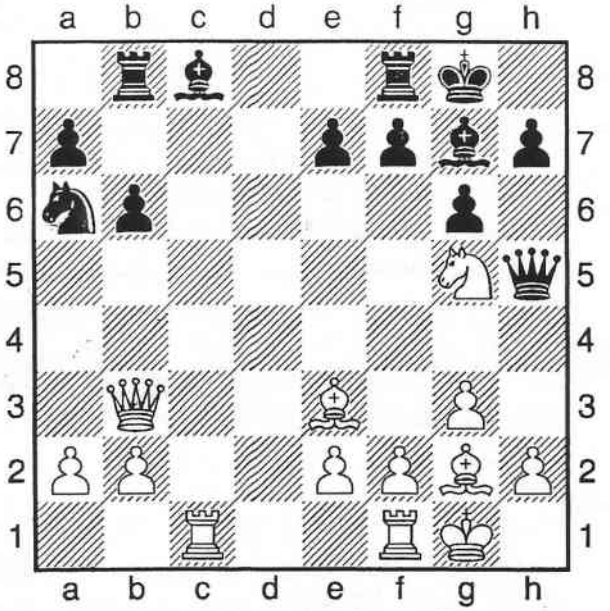


□ Fort
■ Wilbanks



□ **Wien**
■ **Hater**

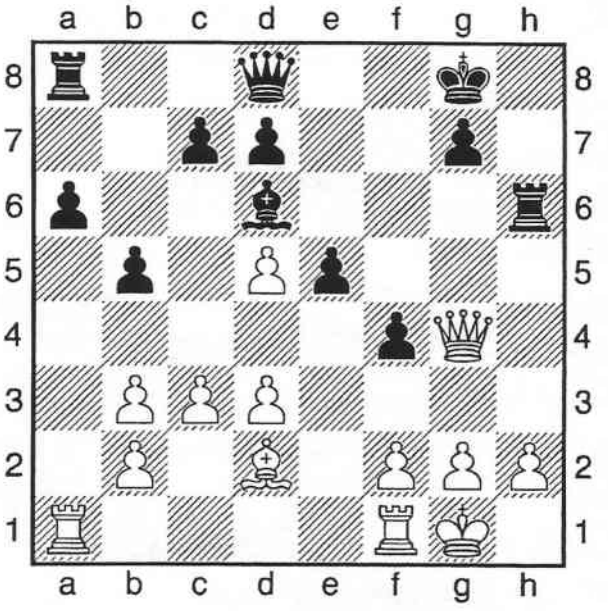
1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 d5 3.cxd5 Nxd5 4.g3 g6 5.Bg2 c6 6.Nf3 Bg7 7.0-0 0-0 8.d4 c5 9.Nxd5 Qxd5 10.dxc5 Qxc5 11.Be3 Qh5 12.Rc1 Na6 13.Qb3 b6 14.Ng5 Rb8 15.Rxc8 Rbxc8 16.Bf3 Nc5 17.Qd5 e6 18.Qd6 Rfd8 19.Qf4 Qh6 20.Qxf7+ Kh8 21.Nxe6 Rd7 22.Qxd7 Nxd7 23.Bxh6 Bxh6 24.Rd1 Ne5 25.Kg2 Re8 26.Bd5 g5 27.Bb3 g4 28.f4 gxf3+ 29.exf3 Bf8 30.Nxf8 Rxf8 31.f4 Ng4 32.Rd7 a5 33.Be6 h5 34.Bxg4 hxg4 35.Rd6 Rc8 36.Rd2 Kg7 37.h3 gxh3+ 38.Kxh3 Rc6 39.g4 a4 40.f5
**1-0**



□ **Dibble**
■ **Fort**

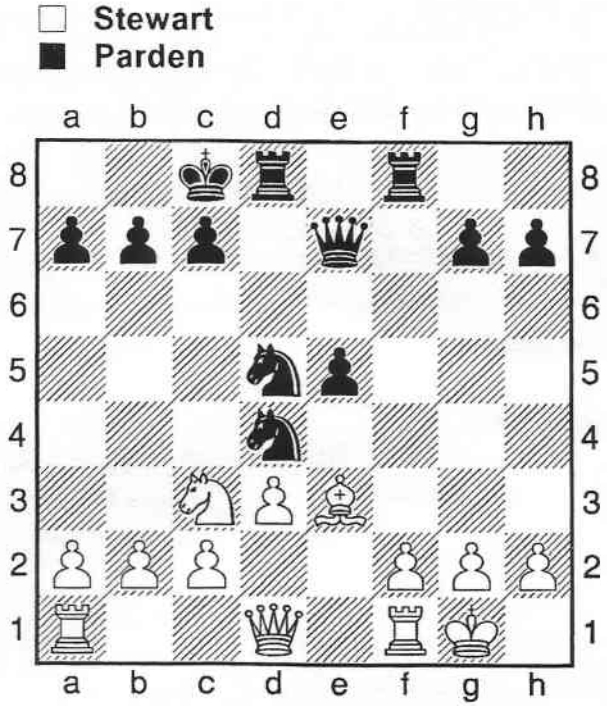
**1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nge7 4.0-0 a6 5.Bc4 b5 6.Bb3 Bb7 7.Nc3 Ng6 8.d3 Na5 9.Be3 Bb4 10.Nd5 Nxb3 11.axb3 Bxd5 12.exd5 0-0 13.c3 Bd6 14.Ng5 f5 15.Nxh7 Kxh7 16.Qh5+ Kg8 17.Qxg6 Rf6 18.Qh5 f4 19.Bd2 Rh6 20.Qg4** diagr **Qe8 21.Rfe1 Qf7 22.c4 Rg6 23.Qf3 b4 24.Ra4 a5 25.Rea1 Qf5 26.Rxa5 Rb8 27.c5 Be7 28.R1a4 d6 29.c6 Bg5 30.Ra8 Rc8 31.Rxc8+ Qxc8 32.Rxb4 Qa6 33.Ra4 Qb5 34.Rb4 Qa6 35.Qd1 Qxd3 36.Rb8+ Kf7 37.f3 Qxd5 38.Qc2 Be7 39.Qc4 Ke6 40.Ba5 Qxc4 41.bxc4 d5 42.b3 dxc4 43.Bxc7 c3 44.Ba5 c2 45.Bd2 Bc5+ 46.Kf1 Kd6 47.Bc1 Be3 48.Bb2 Bd4 49.Rd8+ Kc5 50.Rxd4 exd4 51.Bc1 Rf6 52.Ke2 Kxc6 53.Kd3 Kd5 54.Kxc2 Rc6+ 55.Kb2 g5 56.g3 fxg3 57.hxg3 g4 58.fxg4 d3 59.Bf4 Ke4 60.g5 Kf3**
**0-1**

□ **Dibble**
■ **Fort**



□ **Stewart**
■ **Parden**

**1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bc4 Nc6 4.0-0 Nf6 5.Ng5 Be6 6.Bxe6 fxe6 7.Nxe6 Qe7 8.Nxf8 Rxf8 9.Nc3 0-0-0 10.d3 Nd4 11.Be3 d5 12.exd5 Nxd5** diag **13.Bxd4 exd4 14.Qg4+ Kb8 15.Nxd5 Rxd5 16.Rae1 Re5 17.Rxe5 Qxe5 18.Qe4 Qxe4 19.dxe4 Rc8 20.Re1 g5 21.g3 c5 22.Kg2 Kc7 23.f4 gxf4 24.gxf4 c4 25.Kf3 b5 26.e5 Kc6 27.f5 Kd5 28.e6 d3 29.cxd3 cxd3 30.Ke3 Ke5 31.Rf1 d2 32.Kxd2 Kf6 33.Ke3 Rg8 34.Rf2 Ke5 35.e7 Kf6 36.Kf4 Kxe7 37.Re2+ Kf7 38.Rc2 Re8 39.Rc7+ Re7 40.Rxe7+ Kxe7 41.b4 Kf6 42.h4 h5 43.a3 a6 44.Ke4 Kf7 45.Ke5 Kf8 46.f6 Kf7 47.Kf5 Kf8 48.Kg6 Kg8 49.f7+ Kf8 50.Kf6 a5 51.bxa5 b4 52.a6 b3 53.a7 1-0**

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□ **Wilbanks**
■ **Parden**

1.e4 e5 2.f4 d6 3.fxe5 dxe5 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.Bc4 Bg4 6.0-0 Bxf3 7.Bxf7+ Kxf7 8.Qxf3+ Nf6 9.Qb3+ Ke8 10.Qxb7 Nd4 11.Nc3 Nxc2 12.Nb5 Nxa1 13.Nxc7+ Ke7 14.Nxa8+ Qd7 15.Qa6 Nc2 16.b3 Ke8 17.Qa5 Bd6 18.Bb2 Kf7 19.Bxe5 Rxa8 20.Bxf6 gxf6 21.Qd5+ Ke7 22.Qxa8 Bc5+ 23.Kh1 Qxd2 24.e5 f5 25.Qc6 Bb6 26.Qf6+ Ke8 27.Qxf5 Ne3 28.Qe6+ Kd8 29.Rf8+ Kc7 30.Qc8#
**1-0**

Your game here next issue?
Send it in

**The following is a list of Alabamas top Chess players at the end of the year. Certainly some ratings have changed. Perhaps this could be published once a year to serve as a measuring stick, marking your progress against your friends!**

# Alabamas Highest rated Chess Players

Effective 1 December 2002

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1: | 2320 | AL Camaratta,FrankA |
| 2: | 2210 | AL MORASH,JOHN F |
| 3: | 2200 | AL MELVIN,BILL |
| 4: | 2198 | AL THERRELL,KYLE ALLEN |
| 5: | 2195 | AL DOWD,STEVEN B |
| 6: | 2189 | AL THOMAS,DANIEL H |
| 7: | 2186 | AL Puckett,Matthew V |
| 8: | 2154 | AL MEIDINGER,CHARLES L |
| 9: | 2137 | AL LANKEY,BRIAN JAMES |
| 10: | 2125 | AL Inman,Brent H |
| 11: | 2112 | AL LARSON,GERALD A |
| 12: | 2100 | AL REEDER,ANDY |
| 13: | 2087 | AL PRICE,RICHARD G |
| 14: | 2043 | AL GLENN,MARK W |
| 15: | 2020 | AL Presson,Craig |
| 16: | 2016 | AL SIDES,BEN L |
| 17: | 2008 | AL HATER,DAVID A |
| 18: | 2001 | AL MARING,LEE C |
| 19: | 1998 | AL VARAGONA,SCOTT |
| 20: | 1979 | AL BAILEY,GARY L |
| 21: | 1976 | AL GUNERATNE,RANIL D |
| 22: | 1962 | AL SURIYAGODA,NUWAN SRI |
| 23: | 1959 | AL Pruitt,Robert F |
| 24: | 1950 | AL MARCRUM,JOSEPH N |
| 25: | 1945 | AL ROLAND,JERE E |
| 26: | 1937 | AL AKTUNC,OZGUR |
| 27: | 1930 | AL RICHARDSON,JAMES LEE |
| 28: | 1923 | AL LIATTI,MARK L |
| 29: | 1919 | AL Mannsfeld,Sven-Peter |
| 30: | 1915 | AL LINHOLM,JAMES R |
| 31: | 1913 | AL JAKEMAN,KEITH R |
| 32: | 1912 | AL BOND,TIM |
| 33: | 1902 | AL MC ALEER,JEFFREY M |
| 34: | 1900 | AL PETTY,KIRK D |
| 35: | 1892 | AL D'SOUZA,GILES |
| 36: | 1887 | AL SCHWEINSBERG,JOHN G |
| 37: | 1885 | AL TODD,ALAN |
| 38: | 1875 | AL GOODMAN,KENNETH W |
| 39: | 1873 | AL DREADING,JAMES D |
| 40: | 1864 | AL MORCOS,JOHN N |
| 41: | 1863 | AL Smith,Charles A |
| 42: | 1856 | AL WIEN,JEFFREY S |

43: 1854/07 AL ADUMITROAIE,VIRGIL
44: 1852 AL Dillard,Phil
45: 1850 AL Wegman,Barron M
46: 1837 AL KINNEY,ZACHARY Z
47: 1830 AL LAWRY,THOMAS H
48: 1826 AL BOMAR,WILLIAM C
49: 1825 AL JONES,HARRY W
50: 1823 AL CHENAULT,MICHAEL K
51: 1820 AL LAWRENCE,CAESAR W
52: 1814 AL LAWSON,MICHAEL D
53: 1800 AL Mallory,Jack C
54: 1797 AL Hayes,David
55: 1794 AL KHALEGI,BIJAN
56: 1794 AL SMITH,ROSS OWEN
57: 1786 AL GIPSON,JAMES R
58: 1785 AL HELTON,SCOTT
59: 1779 AL DUNAGAN,CLYDE K
60: 1778 AL PEELE,RHODES
61: 1775 AL FUNARO,GREGORY V
62: 1772 AL SCHEUERMANN,JAMES P
63: 1772 AL TRAMELL,STEVEN A
64: 1763/21 AL LEVENE,RALPH Z
65: 1760 AL Murphy,DavidL
66: 1757 AL SAVOIE,WILLIAM R
67: 1745 AL MC GOWIN,JERALD R
68: 1739 AL WHEELER,GERALD A
69: 1736 AL CLEVELAND,CHARLES D
70: 1730 AL FREEMAN,RUSSELL
71: 1729 AL BETANCOURT,JOHN E
72: 1728 AL SLOAN,KENNETH
73: 1727 AL GWIN,JACK P
74: 1717 AL FISK,LAWRENCE D
75: 1700 AL SCHAETZLE,WALTER J
76: 1695 AL GOWER,ALBERT E
77: 1694 AL CHAFIN,WELDON K
78: 1694 AL DEAN,EDWARD T
79: 1693 AL ASH,GARY A
80: 1692 AL HENDRY,WILLIAM T
81: 1687 AL NAGER,ERIC M
82: 1685 AL Mc Intyre,Roger K
83: 1677 AL BEGALA,MIKE J
84: 1676 AL HOLLAND,CORBIN W
85: 1673 AL Alford,Patrick R
86: 1671 AL JOHNSON,JAMES F
87: 1663 AL Higginbotham,Walter V
88: 1648 AL WILDER,GREGORY M
89: 1628 AL REYNOLDS,TODD C
90: 1626/17 AL MUELLER,CORNEL M
91: 1623 AL Israel,Shannon
92: 1623 AL STANTON,ROY F
93: 1622 AL BOWEN,JAMES R
94: 1619 AL LASKY,CHRISTOPHER J
95: 1619 AL STRIBLING,MARK P
96: 1617/06 AL BROWN,ALFORD J
97: 1608/20 AL RUPPERT,HORST K
98: 1601 AL BRONAR,ROBERT
99: 1600 AL COLLINS,W P
100: 1591 AL Greiner,Francis

# PHILIDOR'S LEGACY

**By Charles Ashmore**

**According to my "Dictionary of Modern Chess" by Byrne J. Horton the Smothered Mate has been known since 1497 and was made popular by Andre Philidor (1726-1795). The Smothered Mate is a descriptive situation in which the King is completely surrounded by his own men and has no avenue of escape. The Fool's Mate is a good practical example. The rare Epaulettes Mate is another mating situation in which the King is obstructed, on a rank or file by his own chessmen.**

**I have played over 4000 standard games on the internet and would like to show three wins with the Philidor's Legacy. All three are the classic type of Smothered Mate with the King trapped in the corner; however, I have heard tell of Smothered Mates that occur in the center of the board. If any readers know of any, I think they should send them in so that we can enjoy this fantastic mate and use the theme in our combinations.**

□ **zxw**
■ **Ashmore**
ICC

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qa5 4.d4 c6 5.Bc4 Nf6 6.Nge2 Bf5 7.0-0 Nbd7 8.Be3 0-0-0 9.Qb1 e5 10.a3 Qc7 11.b4 Nb6 12.Bb3 Bd6 13.dxe5 Bxe5 14.f4 Bxc3 15.Nxc3 Rhe8 16.Bxb6 Qxb6+ 17.Kh1 Ng4 18.Nd1 Re2 19.Bc4 Rxc2 20.Bb3 Rdd2 21.Bxc2 Bxc2 22.Qc1 Rxd1 23.Rxd1 Nf2+ 24.Kg1 Nh3+ 25.Kh1 Qg1+ 26.Rxg1 Nf2#
**0-1**

□ **DustinK**
■ **Ashmore**
ICC

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Ng5 Bc5 5.Nxf7 Bxf2+ 6.Kf1 Qe7 7.Nxh8 d5 8.Bxd5 Bg4 9.Bf7+ Kd7 10.Kxf2 Bxd1 11.Rxd1 Rxh8 12.Bb3 Rf8 13.Kg1 Nxe4 14.d3 Qc5+ 15.d4 exd4 16.Be3 Kc8 17.Be6+ Kb8 18.b4 Qe5 19.Nd2 Qxe6 20.Nxe4 Qxe4 21.Bf2 Qxc2 22.Rf1 Nxb4 23.Bxd4 Rxf1+ 24.Rxf1 b6 25.a3 Nd3 26.Bxg7 Qc5+ 27.Kh1 Nf2+ 28.Kg1 Nh3+ 29.Kh1 Qg1+
**0-1**

□ **Ashmore**
■ **Sideshowbob**
ICC

1.e4 c5 2.g3 Nc6 3.Bg2 g6 4.f4 d6 5.Nf3 Bg7 6.c3 Bg4 7.h3 Bxf3 8.Qxf3 e6 9.d3 Nge7 10.Be3 Rb8 11.0-0 f5 12.Nd2 b5 13.exf5 exf5 14.Rae1 0-0 15.Re2 Qc7 16.Rfe1 Rbe8 17.Kh2 Qd7 18.Qf2 b4 19.d4 bxc3 20.bxc3 cxd4 21.cxd4 Nb4 22.Nf3 Nd3 23.Qf1 Nxe1 24.Qxe1 Nd5 25.Bd2 Rxe2 26.Qxe2 Re8 27.Qc4 Qe6 28.Ng5 Qe2 29.Qxd5+ Kh8 30.Nf7+ Kg8 31.Nh6+ Kh8 32.Qg8+ Rxg8 33.Nf7#
**1-0**

# EDITORS NOTES---------

Welcome to the third issue of Chess Antics that I have had the privilige of producing. In this issue you will find articles by National Master Bill Melvin, Charles Ashmore, your humble editor, Zach Kinney and of course, games , games and more games. In the final analysis,(whoops that could be a chess term analysis) this is your bulletin. This bulletin is the voice and archive of the Alabama Chess player. To that end, I request that everyone consider contributing to it. An article, a good (or even a bad) game, or even club news would be appreciated by all.

Chess activity is on the rise. Signs of life are being seen statewide. In my capacity as a chessplayerand bulletin editor, I offer my gratitude to those brave souls who are organizing and directing tournaments.I believe that a quality State bulletin, published and delivered in a timely fashion encourages such activity.While because of my obselete techniques do not produce the highest quality bulletin in terms of appearance,I believe that the timely distribution of decent chess quality has made these bulletins effective.

I dont antcipate serving as editor again, for I am sure there are more skilled people out in our community who are feeling the call to service. If this is you, think about running for editor in September. With only afew hours of dedication and a little effort you can get enough material to publish quality bulletins. I am not saying that I would leave Alabama Chess Antics without an editor. Just it wouldnt hurt my feelings if someone really wants to do this job and be committed to four issues a year.

On the dissapointing side neither the postal or email championship got off the ground. Only 1 player signed up for both. On the positive side, Montgomery has taken the lead in organizing tournaments, kudos to Caesar, David. Huntsville, yes Huntsville is coming to life scheduling the Space City open in July. Good job guys.

In July, The ACF board has mandated we publish a large issue of the Antics. This will be used as a recruiting tool and as support for the State Championship in September. I only ask that any articles or games you wish to submit reach me no later than June 20.

Thanks Kirk

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## Five Signs You Might Be Playing Postal Chess Against a Computer

By Bill Melvin

5 Your opponent requests that you start bar coding your moves

4 Your opponent complains about a recent electrical storm and asks for three extra days to send a move

3 Your opponent announces mate in 37

2 Your opponent sends an if move like "21 Nf3 If 21.... Bg4 then 22Kf core dump error at address OxFFFFOFca"

1 Your opponent wants to know why dont you resign since you are down 3.417 Pawns

National Master Bill Melvin has pointed out in his Presidents letter that there are many more options available to both players and organizers. It is true that we can now fit whole tournaments in a single night through quick time controls. We can research our openings with greater ease, study Grandmaster games by accessing a single database or even play somebody halfway around the world. There are side effects to this that I believe have taken their toll on tournament attendance and dulled the passion for improvement that used to be common among "tournament players".

Firstly, Sudden death Time controls, especially in the first or only time control often dont allow for a player to evaluate a position deeply over the board. Middlegame books even now suggest playing adequate moves rather than searching for the truth in the position in certain game situations. Many a game is spoiled by this attempt to make chess a quick sport. A lot of newer players do not feel the need to really study the elements that make up a chess position, as time controls dont permit a player to work through the evaluations on the board. Twenty years ago it seemed there was a lot of hunger to know how a certain pawn structure could be undermined through determined play, or a another longterm postional advantage could be exploited by manuver. Two small positional weaknesses were often enough to cause you to be ground down with technique. Back then you had to understand positional elements to improve rapidly and we hungered for them. What was the motivating factor for study and work? I believe the answer is right there at your local club. Each week we had to play a slow serious game at the chess club. One round a week for threee, four or five weeks.

Think about it? How has your club attendance been over the years since we shifted from one round a week to a whole tournament in a night? How have the overall ratings changed? Lets start playing serious chess again at the clubs!!!!!

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NEXT
ISSUE
SEND ME A THUMBNAIL SKETCH
OF YOUR CLUB IMPORTANT!!!!!! THANKS

# EVENTS

| | |
|---|---|
| April 26-27 | Tuskegee Open |
| June 21 | Montgomery G/29 |
| July 26-27 | Space City Open Huntsville |
| August 2-3 | Greater Alabama Open Montgomery |
| Aug 30-Sep1 | Al Chess Championsip Montgomery |
| Sept 20 | Saturday G/29 Montgomery |
| Oct 18 | Saturday G/29 Montgomery |
| November 15 | Saturday G/29 Montgomery |

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ACF

April 2003